(d) what has been the progress in discussions with regard to L.C.A. particularly about purchases of co.mpositefiy by wire technology and co-development of such.technology ?'

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THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIK. C. PANT): (a) There-.cent visit of RM to USA is ex pected to lead to a better appre ciation of India's security con cerns, contribute to improved under standing between the two countries and facilitate mutually bene-ficial bilateral cooperation.

(b) The defence cooperation between the two countries is at an .i initial stage. Exploratory discussions are continuing to step up defence cooperation.

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(c) Progress under the on-going LOA programme has been generally satisfactory. Exploratory discussions were held on tlie possibility of cooperation ln Under Water Technology.

(d) In discussions regarding the LCA Programme, clarifications were given in regard to India's aeronautics technology absorption plans via co-development in areas like digital fly-by-wire -and the requirement of composites . for the LCA was highlighted.

Setting up of an Electronic Telephone manufacturing uait in West Bengal

778. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNI-CATIONS # be pleased to state:

(a) whether it ls a fact that the West Bengal Chief Minister has urged the Central Government through his letter dated the 22nd June, 1989 to set up an Electronic Telephone manufacturing unit in that state; and

(b)if.so, the" "response of government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COM-MUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRI-DHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes Sir. The request is for a Public Switching Manufacturing Unit.

(b) The matter * is receiving attention.

Ban on drugs in Maharashtra *J*

779. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that *4* the Maharashtra Government have banned the sale of five drugs in the State* as reported in the Indian Express ftated 6th May, 1989: *

(b) if so, whether Government propose to issue a nation wide . alert against these drugs:

(a) whether the:e companies manufacturing thosa drugs are producing other drugs also; if so, whether all of tho^e drugs are subjected to intensive tests for quality; and

(d) what penel action is being taken against the cmpanies whicii are playing with tho lives of in-nocent people? THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI . RAFIQ ALAM) : (a) to (d) The in-formation is biing collected and will be laid on the Table of tbe Sabha,